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AUG 28 2006

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/613,426

Q60058

REMARKS

With this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 10, 11, and 21. Therefore, claims 1, 4-9, and 12-20 are all the claims currently pending in this Application.

Claims 1, 9, and 12

Claim 9 stands objected to due to an informality. With this Amendment, claim 9 is amended and Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 9 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1, 9, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Kajita (U.S. Patent 6,069,706).

With this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 9, and 12, as shown. Applicants submit that these amendments are fully supported in the originally-filed specification. In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, to establish the plurality of logical channels, packet transmission-and-reception sections 201, 201', and 201'' are respectively connected to a host, a printer, and a scanner for transmitting and receiving packets. In addition to the packet transmission-and-reception section, an image data reception section 203 and a conversion-to-command section 204 for receiving image data from the scanner and sending converted image data to the printer without an intervention of the packet transmission-and-reception sections are provided.

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Thus, according to the kind of process (i.e. copying, printing, status inquiry, etc.) the type of communication can be selectively established.

Applicants respectfully submit that Kajita fails to disclose or suggest these features, as recited in claims 1, 9, and 12, and respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 9, and 12 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 4-8, 13-15, and 16-20

Claims 4 and 16 stand objected to due to informalities. With this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 4 and 16 and respectfully request that the objections thereto be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants amend claim 13 to clarify the language at issue and respectfully request that the §112 rejection of claim 12 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Kajita. Claims 4-7 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kajita in view of Kai (U.S. Patent 5,943,503). Claims 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kajita in view of Kai and Smilansky (5,339,176). Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kajita in view of Kai and Ohnishi (U.S. Patent 6,067,169).

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Applicants submit that employing a logical channel communication for the communication between the devices (CPU, ROM, RAM, and the like) of Kajita is not realistic and would not have been contemplated by one of skill in the art because the packet communication of Kajita requires a packet interpreter which is provided in front of each device, and there is little advantage to employ the packet communication in such a way. Thus, a command communication is usually used in such a case. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Kajita fails to disclose or suggest a plurality of logical channels by which a printer and a scanner are connected to each other, as recited in independent claims 4, 13, and 16. Applicants further submit Kai, Smilansky, and Ohnishi fail to remedy these deficiencies of Kajita, and that claims 5-8, 14-15, and 17-20 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on claims 4, 13, and 16.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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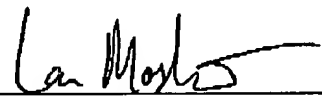
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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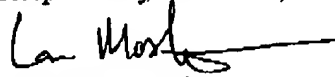
Date: August 28, 2006

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Sir:

I hereby certify that the above identified correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Chan S. Park at the Patent and Trademark Office on August 28, 2006 at 571-273-8300 (PTO central fax number).

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Moskowitz